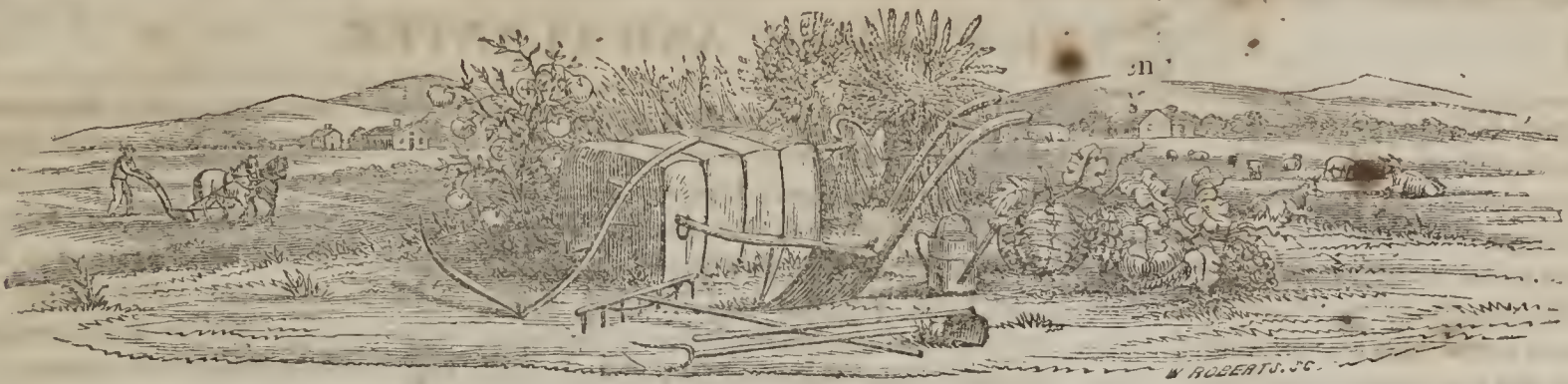


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FARMER AND PLANTER.

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Original Communications.

Report of the Committee on Rice—Dr. R. E. Elliott, Chairman.

(Continued from page 150.)

We shall now proceed to offer a few observations on the preparation of the land and the planting of the crop. In rice planters' phrase, the fields appropriated to the cultivation of rice, are called squares, because the banks around them are rectangular. Fifteen or twenty feet distant from the banks is a margin ditch, five feet wide, and four feet deep, and connected with these is the trunk, or sluice, communicating with the canal, or river. Besides these main drains, the field is intersected at regular intervals, say 50 feet, with smaller drains, say two feet wide and three feet deep, so that the square is divided into parallel lands, or beds, about 50 feet in width. As soon as the stubble is burnt, and the waste rice is gleaned by the birds, these lands are ploughed to the centre—the effect of which is, to give a slight inclination towards the drains. After exposure to frost, the ground is well harrowed, and when well drained, they are reduced to a tilth that would put to shame very many of our gardens. Then follows the

trenching, say 14 or 15 inches apart, and then the sowing of the grain.

Two methods of planting are practised, in one case the grain is planted open, in the other it is covered.

And first, of open planting—if seed rice is sown in open trenches without any preparation, and the water be admitted, a portion of the rice will float out of the trench, and the result will be broad-cast rice, instead of drilled rice. To obviate this difficulty the seed is churned in a hogshead in a mixture of red clay and water, and the effect of this coating of clay is to make the grain adherent to the soil—the additional precaution is taken of admitting the water gently, and at night, after the falling of the dew.—After a stated interval, the rice having put forth a blade, will commence floating, and as soon as this is noted the water is lowered or withdrawn, to allow the feeble plant to affix its root to the ground. As soon as this takes place the water is again admitted, and held on from 20 to 35 days, when it is withdrawn and the field laid dry.

Secondly, of the covered planting.—Here the grain is sown in the trench and covered lightly with the soil, and the water introduced for the purpose of germinating the grain, and as soon as this is effected the water is withdrawn. When the plants have pointed freely through the surface, the water is returned, and retained from 20 to 35 days, when the land is made dry as practised in the open planting. After the withdrawal of the water, the fields are kept perfectly dry—the rice is thrice hoed and thrice hand-picked, and the water once more re-admitted and retained till the period of the harvest.

The object of the good drainage, the

ploughing, the harrowing, and the exposure to the frost mentioned above, is not only to pulverize the surface and to prepare it for the seed, but to extirpate the pernicious perennial aquatic grasses, which infest the rice fields. Taking it for granted then, that the draining, the ploughing and harrowing have all been done in the right manner and at the right time, and that these vile pests have been expelled from our lands, it is manifest that the conflict for the possession of the soil is narrowed down to a conflict between the rice and the annual grasses, and here the long flow, alluded to, alone generally decides the matter in favor of the growing crop. During its continuance, say from 20 to 35 days, the land being permanently covered with water, scarcely one spear of the annual grasses can find its way to the surface. Yet all this while, the rice having grown through the water, is gathering strength from day to day, and momentarily acquiring a more absolute possession of the soil. Some of our annual grasses will grow through water precisely like rice; but to do this, they must sprout, and actually find their way to the surface of the land, before the introduction of the water. Some of these grasses having come up at the same moment with the rice, are found mingled with the crop, and have to be exterminated with the fingers and hoe. If the upland planter could, by an injunction, prevent the springing up of every spear of crab grass in his corn and cotton fields, between the 10th day of May, and the 10th day of June, he would vividly realize the stupendous power, which by this method of irrigation, is placed in the hands of the rice planter.

It is manifest that this system of irrigation cannot be successfully conducted, ex-

cept upon fields that are level or nearly so; and such unfortunately is not the case with a portion of our swamp lands. The proper management of the water on these uneven squares is matter of no small perplexity. If the planter irrigate liberally with the intent of destroying the grass on the high places, the low places are so deeply flowed, that the rice becomes excessively elongated, and on the withdrawal of the water the plant will fall—rot off at the surface, and starting from the old root, will have to commence its career de novo. If he irrigate more moderately with the intent of saving the rice in the low places, the hills remain bare of water and become covered with a crop of grass which fills him with dismay. To extricate himself from these difficulties, it is a cardinal point with the rice planter of this day, to include within the same embankments only those lands which lie upon the same level. To accomplish this, large fields are sub-divided—old embankments leveled down, and new ones reared elsewhere, a high portion of one square is annexed to a high portion of an adjoining one—and when all these fail, the plough and the scoop are put in requisition, and no effort spared to bring the surface as nearly level as possible.

A person not conversant with the growing of rice might readily suppose, that aquatic plant as it is, good drainage was not essential to its successful cultivation. But precisely the reverse of this is the fact, for in many cases the crop has been doubled simply by doubling the depth of the drains. Indeed the tide swamp lands of Carolina present a system of thorough drainage, which perhaps is surpassed nowhere except on the tile drained lands of England and Scotland. It may perhaps, convey some idea of the extent of this system, when we state, that on a well ditched plantation of two hundred and fifty acres, the drains if placed end to end, will extend a distance exceeding thirty-five miles; and if the labor of making these drains be estimated, the cost perchance may be without a parallel. Some of our rice fields having been cultivated for sixty or seventy years, neither tree nor stump, nor vestige of a stump is visible above the surface, yet in excavating six hundred cubic feet *through these very fields*, from two hundred to three hundred cubic feet will be solid wood, roots of all sizes, of the bay, the cedar, the gum—but chiefly the cypress—all as sound as if the trees they once nourished were still standing on the surface. The labor of making so

many drains and through such obstructions is truly tremendous, but there is no way of escape. It is a point of honour, with every real rice planter not to go *around* a stump but to have his ditches as straight as stake and line can make them, and consequently every fragment of root falling in the line of the drain has to be completely removed by the axe and by the grubbing-hoe.

We now proceed to offer a few observations on the cultivation of rice in latitude $34^{\circ} 14'$. In this locality the season is barely long enough for bringing a crop of rice to perfection. No effort should be spared, therefore, to bring the crop forward as early in the spring as practicable. The land selected should have a good exposure confronting the South and East if possible—it should be shaded neither by tree nor hill-side, it should be fall ploughed and spring ploughed, and reduced to as fine a tilth as possible, but above all, every particle of water issuing from the base of our hills should be intercepted by a good spring ditch.

In this region of country the temperature of the wells and springs throughout the year, is 60° Fahrenheit, and the water issuing from the base of the hills is all pretty much of the same temperature.—The little flats traversed by our spring branches and lying at the base of these hills, absorb more or less of this cold water—and these are the spots usually selected for the growing of rice. Now to suppose that rice will grow off kindly in the spring, in a soil saturated with water of the temperature of 60 degrees, is manifestly a vain expectation. It is indispensable, therefore, that every drop of this water be cut off by a good ditch at the base of the hill.

The season here being barely long enough to bring the crop to perfection, it is important that it be planted at the earliest moment practicable. Sensitive to cold as rice is—it seems far less affected by it in its infancy than when bringing the crop to perfection. If, when about to mature the grain, the plant be overtaken, not by light frosts only, but by the cold nights of September, its vital energies appear to be completely paralyzed, and the process of ripening the ear to be absolutely suspended. On the other hand, in its infancy we have seen it resist powerful frosts without being destroyed. On the 7th day of April 1828, the thermometer at the seaboard stood at 30° with a heavy black frost. The stalk and blade of every spear of rice above the

surface was effectually destroyed, yet with trifling exceptions, the plant started again from the root and the losses were not material. On the 16th day of April, 1849, the thermometer at the seaboard stood at 23° . Here again the rice was cut down, but excepting on the mould lands, the damage was trifling. Again, on the 16th day of March 1832, and on the 23 day of March 1843, the thermometer at the seaboard stood at 26° ; on both occasions rice had been planted and the fields flowed for the purpose of germinating the grain—and on the days alluded to, there was a sheet of ice extending from bank to bank, yet here there was no loss whatever, and the crop came up just as well as if there had been no departure from the ordinary temperature.

The spring branches in this country offer many facilities for overflowing land, and the question is often asked, as running water can be used, whether irrigation may not be employed here without endangering health, as it is well known to do in the lower country. This question we do not feel competent to answer. We recommend caution, and would rather advise that the farmer bring his land to a fine tilth—that seed be sowed liberally—that the plant be carefully hoed and handpicked—that he should then look to the falling rain to bring his crop to perfection. Water made only partially stagnant, may put in jeopardy, not only our own health, but the health of our neighbors—and though a man from motives of interest may be willing to peril his own life and [that of his household, under no circumstances whatever can he be authorized to expose his neighbor to a similar calamity.

Bermuda Grass.

[We received the following communication from a correspondent residing near the seaboard. Eds.]

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have ceased to fear the Bermuda grass. Though difficult to exterminate, I am persuaded that it can be so far controlled, as not to affect materially our growing crops. A few years since I purchased a small plat of land adjoining me, and on this I found several bad patches of Bermuda grass. I was aware of its reputation, and regarded it with some dismay. But having noticed the destructive power of thorough fall ploughing on the formidable perennial grasses which inhabit our rice lands, I resolved to subject the Bermuda grass to similar treatment.

The land, which was sandy and level,

present." Exactly—and if the back-country farmer could only be thoroughly convinced of this, it would do more to renovate his worn out fields than a whole Encyclopædia written on bone earth, horn, &c. These are refinements in agriculture which may suit us hereafter, when we are farther advanced than we are now.

We agree with Broomsedge when he says, "A capital letter from Hon. H. W. Collier to the Editor of the Plow, Loom and Anvil." But it is to thank him, as we do most cordially, for his able and spirited remarks on Mr. Skinner's high tariff principles, that we notice this part of his review. We had intended ourselves, Messrs. Editors, to read you a lecture for publishing without remarks, Mr. Skinner's notes on Mr. Collier's letter, but we let it pass now—the bane has got its antidote. We have long known that Mr. Skinner was a monomaniac on this subject—"a man of one idea"—and have had occasion to deal with him, in our weak way, before. "The Plow, Loom and Anvil side by side!" Does not Mr. Skinner know that they are side by side to perfection in that very England, of whose "pauper labour" he speaks with such unfeeling scorn?

Farther on in his review, speaking of cotton, Broomsedge says—"It may be put down as a fixed fact, that there is no danger of the supply exceeding the demand for this great staple. The experience of years proves incontestably that the consumption keeps ahead of the production." And we say it is a fixed fact, *that short crops have generally sold for more than heavy ones*—we cannot therefore concur in the natural inference from his premises, that there is no danger of over production.—That consumption may keep up with (not "ahead of") production, even when it is largest, may have been proven by experience; but this does not prove that there may not be overproduction as far as the interest of the planter is concerned. In this view, there is over production whenever a large crop nets less profit, or no more than a small one. This is an important matter and one worthy the serious attention of the planter. What shall he do with his future gains, if he does not lay them out in the purchase of lands, negroes and mules, thus swelling the amount, and depreciating the price, of cotton? Is not the answer plain? Let him diversify his pursuits—let him look about for new modes of investing his capital. He will not look about in vain; a great many will present themselves immediately and he has only to make his selection. We are now dependent upon the North for most of our shoes, saddles, hats, cutlery, sheeting, shirting, &c., &c. How long are we to endure this depen-

dence? just so long as we lack the spirit to "declare our independence." Every session of Congress goes to prove more and more clearly, if we do not bestir ourselves and shake off the shackles that are preparing for us, that the fate of Ireland awaits us. Let us then assert our independence of the North by engaging in every kind of manufacture that holds out a promise of profit. By doing this we will be preparing ourselves, if it must be so, to assert our political independence.

We are glad to believe from many of his former communications, that Broomsedge is with us here. He wields a ready pen—will he not join in with us in urging upon the planters to engage at once in forming joint stock companies for the manufacture of coarse cotton goods?—Surely if there is any place in the world where this business can be done profitably, it must be in the upper districts of South Carolina. We have the raw material, cheaper than it can be had any where but in a cotton country—we have unsurpassed water power—plenty of stone and wood for building—cheap food, and labor is cheap enough. Add to all this the present remunerating price of cotton will furnish the necessary capital. All we want is the knowledge and skill, which practice alone can give. Why then should we delay? The times have never been more propitious, and if we lose the present "golden moment of opportunity" it may never return. We wish not to be misunderstood, we urge these views, not as a politician, but as a cotton Planter.

LAURENS.

Enquiries—Remarks.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Convinced as I am that the practice of pulling blades is injurious to the corn, I have been looking about me for some substitute for my stock, for fodder of some kind we must have, and from your recommendation, I have concluded another year to try sowing or drilling corn, expressly for provender.

I am also preparing some grass lots. I see in one of your back numbers instructions for preparing the land, sowing, &c. Can you inform me where *reliable* seed can be procured? Say of red and white Clover, Timothy, Herds, Orchard, Blue or Rye grass, without sending to our kind brethren of the North for it?

Within I send you an additional list of subscribers, with the amount of their subscription. Please send them the back numbers. I shall continue to add to my list from time to time as many names as I may be able to procure, and anxiously hope that others will do as much. If each of your present subscribers could come to the conclusion, which he surely would on reflection, that in procuring additional subscribers, and thereby ensuring a continuance of your excellent paper, he would not only benefit you, but himself and the whole agricultural interest, surely greater exertions would be

made by very many than have been heretofore to sustain the paper, which I have been pained to learn would, without a much more liberal patronage be discontinued. Am I correctly informed in this matter? Is it true that the paper will perish for want of sustaining nourishment in the South? Why, Messrs. Editors, who that took the paper published in our midst, and is yet published, does not recollect the drumming that was done four or five years ago for it lest it should be discontinued? Who does not recollect the number of highly creditable propositions that were made by different gentlemen to sustain it? On turning to my back numbers I see the name of one of the editors of the Farmer and Planter, in the list of the lamented McDonald of Eufaula, Alabama, who proposed to be one of one hundred that should procure twenty subscribers each. These were certainly praiseworthy exertions and successful. Why not, let me ask my brother tillers of the soil, why not now take up the matter, and each of us make it our business to get our neighbors to subscribe for, and support the paper. We must do it, I am doing it. Let me hear that you fellow farmers are doing it. Let us all do it, and at once.

Your friend, JAS. P. JOHNSON.

Mulberry Grove, Dec. 10, '50.

REMARKS.—It is true, that we have at all times for the last thirty years, done as much as we could in our district for Agricultural papers, and as painful as it may be to our friends to learn, and as mortifying to ourselves to acknowledge, it is true, that our paper must go down if not more liberally patronized. We are not able, as much as we are disposed to accommodate our friends that have urged us into the business, as well as those who have so kindly responded to our call at a distance, to "work for nothing and find ourselves," at any rate more than one year. We say thus much, that our friends may be duly notified, so as to conduct themselves accordingly. We are not desponding souls, however. We have believed, and still believe, that the South will sustain us, (we should say herself). We have the assurance of many new subscribers at the commencement of our second volume; with these, if each of our present worthy patrons will bring up his paying man, including as many laborers as possible, we pledge our best exertions and untiring application to the advancement of the good cause in which they are, every one, surely as much interested as ourselves.

An advertisement on our last page points where seed may be obtained. The firm is old and reliable. We have, in years past, usually bought our seed in Augusta, some of which proved to be good and others entirely worthless. Sometime in the past summer, we wrote for Ruta Baga seed, and what appeared to be such, came promptly to hand. We had taken much pains to prepare a piece of land for a fine crop, on which the seed was carefully drilled—but as soon as the first leaves appeared we suspected we were bitten, and so it turned out. Instead of our anticipated ten pound "Bagas," we had a little, trifling, almost fibrous rooted, purple leafed turnip. We could have procured a bushel of better turnip seed in our own neighborhood by asking for them. Some gaps in the rows were replanted with our own seed, the turnips of which would weigh down half-a-dozen of the others. The seed sent may have been, and probably was put up through mistake, but a farmer can best appreciate the disappointment and vexation consequent on such carelessness. We were not so much disappointed in a lot of cickard

grass seed sent us some time previous, although not one of them came up—for had such been the case with the turnip seed the ground might have been better occupied by others.

We procure our best Clover and Herds grass seed from Tennessee, brought over by wagons with other produce for sale in our markets. We advise Mr. Johnson to procure the seed, come from where they may, risk a sufficiency to get a start, after which he may raise his own, as we are now doing. Also let him drill or sow corn for fodder. We have made the past season several tons of valuable provender in this way, a report on which, was read before the Pealleton Farmers Society at its recent Anniversary, and will appear in our paper in due time. We see millet highly recommended both for boiling in its green state, and hay making, and from a trial made of it some years since, we have no doubt of its value. On account of its being much easier cured, it might by most persons be preferred to corn, which, when the season is unfavorable is troublesome.—EDS. FARMER & PLANTER.

From the Baltimore Sun.

The Fly in the Wheat Crop.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Having seen in the papers numerous complaints of the partial injury, and sometimes the complete destruction of the wheat crop by the fly, I am anxious that some experiments should be tried for the purpose of its preservation, and suggest the use of common flour of sulphur to effect this object.

I have much confidence in this as an effectual remedy, as when exposed to the air it undergoes various changes, in one stage of which it assumes a form destructive to all animal life. I know of no good reason why, in a small quantity, it should not prove sufficiently noxious to drive the fly from fields in which they have begun to prey, and to prevent their migration to those which at present may be free from their ravages.

When pure sulphur is exposed to the air, in process of time it becomes changed into sulphuretted hydrogen, and is then, as to its smell, one of the most nauseous substances in nature. In another stage it is further changed into sulphurous acid, which, whether free or united to any base, (forming a class of salts called sulphites,) is eminently destructive of animal life. This is the same form which sulphur assumes on being burnt, by which insects are very readily destroyed. I am further induced to believe in its ability to destroy or drive away the fly, from the immunity of fields from insect ravages, which have been dressed with gas-house lime. A gentleman who has manured a part of his field with this lime, recently informed me that as far as this lime extended his wheat assumed a most luxurious appearance, being entirely exempt from injury, whilst beyond this it was almost entirely destroyed by the fly.

In this lime we have sulphur in the same form as it would assume on being exposed to the air in a pure state, or in combination with other substances.

At any rate, the experiment involves but little trouble and expense, and is within the ability of every farmer; should it only be partially successful, its benefits will be of incalculable value.

I advise that different quantities of

common sulphur, varying from two to fifty pounds per acre, be mixed with sawdust, bran or common air-slacked lime, and then sown broadcast on the wheat where the fly is committing its ravages. Where the larger quantities of sulphur are used, the experiment had better be made on a small scale, as it may injure the growing crop.

Should the above fail, I have another suggestion to make as to the application of such a mixture as will answer. Chlorine, either free or in some form presents strong hopes of success. Most pressing and imperative duties at the present time prevent me from making a longer communication.

JAMES HIGGINS,
State Agricultural Chemist.



Horticultural Department.

Fruit Bearing Age of Fruit Trees.

The puberty, or fruit bearing age of fruit trees, vary according to variety, climate and cultivation. Peach trees very often bear some fruit the second year from the seed, provided they are well cultivated and well cared for in all respects, and on the third year a good crop may be expected. Apple trees will begin to bear fruit nearly as soon in this climate as the peach. There will not be more than one or two years difference, (I mean grafted or budded apple trees.) The apple, however, is much longer than the peach in developing its fruit bearing powers fully, and, unlike the peach, it does not bear its fruit generally on the wood of the previous years growth, but on spurs coming out from the limbs of two or three years' growth or more. Some varieties, however, bear fruit on the wood of the previous year, generally from the terminal buds of the young limbs.

The apricot is about one year longer than the peach into bearing, and bears its fruit on the young wood of the previous year, and also on spurs coming out of the older wood. The apricot is a fine and very early fruit. The tree blossoms very early indeed in the spring, and on this account is quite liable to lose its fruit from the effects of the frost. Some plan might be adopted by which its blooming time may be retarded somewhat. The trees, if possible, should be planted on the north sides of buildings or fences—where this cannot be done, a thick covering of straw or something of the kind over the roots of the tree would keep the ground cool and retard vegetation.

The proper soil for the apricot is a rich loam and where this cannot be obtained naturally it should be supplied artificial-

ly. This can be easily done by preparing a proper compost, and putting it in place of the proper soil. No fruit tree equals the apricot in rapid and handsome growth; indeed, it is so rampant that the most of the surface limbs should be shortened from one-third to one-half every winter.

The apricot thrives well on peach stocks, but our common or Chickasaw plum is decidedly the best stock for it.

Pruning Fruit Trees.

There are but few kinds of fruit trees that require pruning farther than to keep the heads of the trees in proper shape.—Peach trees should be shortened in every winter. This consists in taking off from one-third to one-half of the current year's growth of the surface limbs, as well as all such of the inside as need to be shortened.

The shortening in or surface pruning, very greatly promotes the vigor and productiveness of the peach tree, supplying it annually with plenty of young fruit bearing wood in the interior of the head, which never can be the case when the trees are permitted to grow in their own way. All dead and decaying branches should be carefully taken away from the heads or all fruit trees. In all cutting or pruning operations, great care should be taken to cut the limb immediately above a bud, and in cutting peach trees the cut should always be made just above a leaf bud; if made above a fruit bud, the limb cannot elongate from the fruit bud and is compelled to die down to a leaf bud which often happens to be a foot or two. Where there are three buds together, the middle one is a leaf bud, with but few exceptions; and where the fruit buds are single they can be readily recognized by their plump, whitish appearance, while the leaf buds are slim and pointed.

In our fine climate, pruning may safely be done in almost any month in the year, but wounds inflicted in the summer, heal much sooner than at any other time.

A clayey soil well drained, or rich loam, best suits the plum.

PEACH WORM.—It is said that a mixture of one ounce of saltpetre and seven ounces of salt, applied on the surface of the ground, in contact and around the trunk of a peach tree seven years old and upwards, will destroy the worm, prevent yellows, and add much to the product and quality of the fruit.—Also, sow the orchard with the same mixture, at the rate of two bushels to the acre.

THE COWPEA.—An exchange paper says: "It is found that the Cowpea answers every purpose in Southern culture that the clover does at the North; as food for the human family it is pre-eminently superior; and as food for stock, peas are better than corn, and the vine and leaf fully equal the clover, and as a fertilizer for the earth it is not surpassed by any plant in cultivation."



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. I., No. 11: January, 1851.

Protection of Lands from Washing, and Economy in the Use of Stock-yard Manure.

It was said many hundred years ago by a man of great and acknowledged wisdom in his time, that the *first* and the *second* thing in agriculture was *plowing*—the *third*, *manuring*. Time has fully proved the soundness of the remark, if it be taken with the qualifications which changing circumstances bring with them. To have the full benefit of thorough ploughing and manuring, broken lands should be provided with *guard drains* to protect them from the loss caused by the fall of sudden and copious rains, and flat surfaces should be well ditched to draw from them any stagnant water resting on them. Nothing has contributed so much to destroy lands as the rains that have fallen upon them and swept away into the creeks and rivers the finer and better portions of the soil. As bad as has been the practice of cultivating the same crop year after year upon the same land without regard to any principle of rotation, fallow, or improvement, we believe its exhausting effects have been quite inconsiderable when compared with the damage sustained by washing rains. If the ground be put in good tilth by thorough ploughing, unless protected by guard drains, a single shower may do more to reduce its productiveness than the exhaustion occasioned by half a dozen crops. The first step, then, in improvement is to put the lands in such a state that the rains of Heaven will not do more to impoverish them than the husbandman with the utmost skill and diligence can to improve them. This is a matter of vital importance, and if not effected, all efforts at *permanent* improvement will ultimately prove unavailing. A little experience and observation will show *how* and *where* the drains should be made, but to this point we will give attention another time, they had better not be made at all than badly made. A system of drains judiciously laid out and at such a grade as to conduct the surplus water off slowly, will be an effectual remedy against all washing and reach in our judgment the end first to be sought. This being accomplished, permanent improvement may follow.—Whatever manure is applied, will remain there, fertilize, and become assimilated to the use of the plant. The full benefit of subsoil plowing and a thorough pulverization of the soil may then be realized. Perhaps to the temporary effects of manures by reason of washing is to be

ascribed something of the reckless wastefulness of them among planters, for in nothing do we observe such a want of economy and such a profligacy of the means of wealth, as in the use of fertilizers. There are some who seem duly to appreciate their value and take the proper pains to save what is around them, and add to the quantity and quality whatever they can. The number of such, however, is by far too small, but we believe it is rapidly increasing and augers well for the prosperity of the interests of agriculture. But whatever may be the resources for fertilizers, no matter how great, no matter if a kiln be in the field and quarries of limestone at its mouth, protection from ruthless washings, suffer us to insist, should be a matter of the first consideration, then the application of manures will most abundantly repay labor and expense.

In a brief circuit which we made recently through some of the interior districts of this State, we were occasionally gratified with the evidences of an improving spirit in the way of saving and making manures, and occasionally pained to see an exhibition of the utmost contempt at everything like the husbandry and use of the most valuable manures. One or two cases from our notes will serve the present purpose, and illustrate how it is that some live, thrive, and grow rich by the plow, while others languish, spend their patrimony, and become poor in the same occupation in less than half a generation.

The first in order of progress was a homestead held for more than thirty years by the same occupant. The dwelling house and all appertences are situated on the very crown of a hill sloping in every direction. The stock-yard lies upon the steepest of the hill-sides, and at every little shower of rain every particle of manure made by a very considerable stock of cattle and hogs has been for these thirty years, and more, swept away and entirely lost. But glorious to say, this year, the lord of the premises has been aroused from his long slumbers, and constructed a huge tank containing several hundred cubic feet, which catches most of the washings as they start upon their swift gliding journey to the ocean. Around this cistern are now several compost heaps of noble size, and upon them the fluids caught are every day or two poured, thus improving the compost and rendering the volatile constituents, that would otherwise escape, fixed.—The result will be this year a larger amount of valuable manure to renovate his worn out fields, and next probably ten times the quantity. He has discovered the “holes in his pocket” and will take good care to keep them stopped henceforth. There are within three hundred yards of his heaps many hundred and perhaps thousands of wagon loads of spent tan bark, the accumulation of an age, belonging to him which he will find of great value in carrying on his reformation. Should he reduce his compost to a highly concentrated form he will find the tan-bark serviceable as a distributor, and absorbant of the volatile gases, and at the same time it will undergo decomposition itself and form a valuable mixture of the fertilizing materials. The counterpart of this we met a little farther on in

our tour. The situation was not unlike the first, and stock-yards arranged in the same manner and obviously with entire success in wasting manures. One of the striking features of the economy, displayed here, was an enclosure upon a steep declivity of seventy-five or a hundred hogs with every appearance of having been fattened here. It was just after a fall of rain, and everything was as completely washed off into a river, which formed one side of the enclosure, as if an animal had not been there in twelve months. The site was no doubt selected with a view to have clean earth for the hogs, and to accomplish this end the owner could not have shown a better judgment! Is it possible that such a man can be a patriot, he who wastes in the most prodigal manner the very essence of fertility, and the constituents, that are essential to the production of human food? Can it be, that he is so profoundly ignorant of the value of manures? Has he not learned that by taking dime after dime from his pocket he at length reaches the last, and in the same manner by abstracting from his lands year after year and returning nothing, he exhausts, and ultimately renders them worthless? If not he might easily read the instruction in the appearance of his dwelling house, stables, fences, plantation, in every thing around him, which is in keeping with the economy manifested in saving manure. For the present we will say nothing farther of what we saw while absent, other than everywhere, there was an invariable concurrence of compost heaps, piles of stock-yard manures, comfortable dwellings, good, well filled cribs, fine cotton screws, well appearing plantations, and on the other hand worn out old fields, falling stables, neglected fences, no gin house, no manure piles, poverty and starvation.

The Voice of Experience.

The following letter, though not intended for the public eye, is such a manifestation of a noble and generous spirit, that we cannot deny ourselves the privilege of giving it a place. It is hoped it may induce some reader to pursue a course like that of the venerable writer, who now stands a monument of respect and reverence by the whole Southern country. His liberal and benevolent conduct in youth and in the strength of manhood, is now, in his weaker years, support and comfort:

WALNUT GROVE, Limestone Co., Ala }
November 30, 1850. }

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith enclose my subscription for your “Farmer and Planter” for this and the years 1851–52. An apology is due you, from me, for not having paid in advance according to your terms, for this year’s paper, and I hope that my many multiplied agricultural engagements and my old age, will be taken by you as sufficient. I have now passed my “three score years and ten,” a half century of which, has been devoted to the tilling of my mother earth—in this most happy and independent of all occupations, when skillfully pursued, a Farmer and Planter. This long experience has enabled me to mark the improve-

ments which science and art have made, and the fact, that I have ever had the disposition to notice and encourage the efforts of the enlightened votaries of the Farming interest, is a consolation in my declining years.

I would willingly extend my subscription a longer period than I have, but my lease on life will doubtless by that time have expired. Should you, however, see proper to continue your instructive journal to my address, I will leave directions with my children—for I am satisfied that if they read it, as I have read it to them, it will be no inconsiderable heritage.

Accept, gentlemen, the best wishes of an old farmer and friend.

N***** D****.

AFFLECK'S SOUTHERN RURAL ALMANAC, AND PLANTATION AND GARDEN CALENDAR FOR 1851. —In noticing the above Almanac, the Mobile Register says: "This is decidedly one of the most valuable and instructive manuals for the planter and horticulturist in the South, which we have ever seen. Besides all the usual astronomical calculations, adapted to the cotton growing States, it comprises the largest and best digested amount of scientific and practical information for the agriculturist and the gardener, arranged under the appropriate periods, which can any where be gotten, in the same space. The volume contains 132 pages, the latter portion being devoted to advertisements, principally in New Orleans.

Our country friends, and all in the city who have gardens or orchards, will do well to supply themselves with this volume."

A copy of this Almanac has been received, and we here return thanks to Mr. Affleck. If we could say anything to add to the well merited reputation of the work, it would be a satisfaction to us, but fortunately the name of the author will give it a currency that will require nothing further. We claim, however, the privilege of a full endorsement of what is said by the Register, and say to our readers, do not fail to procure a copy. We make an extract as a specimen of its contents, under the belief that all will be induced to consult their own good by having it on their table. Our subscribers will be pleased to learn that we have in type a communication to the Farmer and Planter from Mr. Affleck, and that he will be an occasional contributor to the volume of next year:

"We remark by way of preface, that the difficulties to be overcome in preparing a complete Calendar of plantation work, are much greater than those who have not directed their thoughts in that way, may be generally inclined to believe. We have been thrown almost entirely on our own resources, little or nothing of the kind being in print, to which to refer. No two planters pursue the same course, in directing the labor of their plantations. No two practise the same method of tilling even the staple crops, sugar or cotton. The variations, too, of the soil, season and climate, are so great, that even if the methods of tillage were generally alike, it would be impossible to do more

than intimate those operations, usually required upon plantations, in some one district of our vast and varied land. This is all we have attempted to do; taking that region of country embracing the northern half of Texas and Louisiana, and the southern halves of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina; embracing a range of some three degrees of latitude. Such a Calendar is meant merely to refresh the memory, as to the work to be done about the times named; and it is not intended as giving imperative directions.

It is many years since the cotton-grower's prospects were so encouraging as they now are, at the first of June, 1850. We hope and believe that the new year will see an average crop in market, realizing prices in accordance with these prospects. Less than an average crop is not needed to sustain prices, and would be injurious to the interest of all concerned in this important staple. The labors of the river planters on nearly all the low lands of the Mississippi, have again been rendered of no avail, by a long-continued and disastrous overflow, more general and destructive than ever before experienced. Indeed, all the low lands and river bottoms in the South, on all of which much cotton is grown, have been more or less injured by high water. To the planters on the hills, the fall, winter and spring of 1849—50 have been most unfavorable to the advancement of outdoor work, from the frequent and heavy cold rains saturating the soil and retarding vegetation. On the 27th of March, we had a heavy fall of snow, for these latitudes, followed by not only a frost but a severe freeze; and the ground being hard enough, at Washington, Miss., on the morning of the 28th, to bear the tread of a horse. Those who had cotton planted and up—who were, luckily, few in number—had to replant. Corn was slightly and potatoes seriously injured. Fruit also suffered though the trees were unusually backward. Up to the last two weeks in May, the weather was unseasonably cold and raw, with frequent heavy rains. About the middle of that month, we had our first May weather; since which, the crops have somewhat improved in their appearance.

THE COTTON PLANTATION.—As it is next to impossible, from the causes just referred to, that the crop of 1850—51 can be more than an average one, the picking season will be over in time to admit of much of the cleaning up, fencing, hedging, clearing new land and hauling out manure being done, before new-year's-day. And the negroes, being refreshed by their holidays, and ready to enter with new spirit upon another year's labor, will press on briskly with the preparations for a new crop. Their work is greatly lightened, by a judicious and pre-arranged application of it. Keep the plow in motion, whenever the weather and the state of the soil will permit.—Frost may correct the bad effects as plowing, when the soil is too wet; but do not trust to that when avoidable. By a timely beginning, an opportunity may be had

for stirring up the water-furrow with a stout bull-tongue, drawn by two horses, previous to turning the first two furrows on it, the good effects of which will show themselves through the whole season.—During dry weather, haul out and distribute manure and composts, to be spread as the plowing advances. Cotton seed, intended for manuring thin hill lands, may be composted in some hollow or nook of bottom land where there is a deposit of rich earth; mix intimately as it is hauled out. Manure is generally best applied broadcast; the roots of plants find it as they need it. Beat down cotton-stalks and chop corn-stalks short, so that the plow may cover them up. Under no circumstances burn the latter; nor the former, unless very large. The rapid deterioration in the cotton lands of the South, has been occasioned, not by anything so peculiarly exhausting in that crop, as by the careless and injudicious course of tillage pursued. What that course has been, is but too well known. Had nothing been removed from the land, but the cotton fibre; the low lands drained and protected from floods, which brought with them nothing enriching, but much in the shape of pure sand and clay, that was injurious; the up-lands guarded from washing by side-hill ditches or guard drains; an occasional, though defective, rotation of crops; and all of the cotton stalks, leaves and seed returned to the soil, its deterioration would have been so slight as to be scarcely perceptible.

That certain test, the chemist's analysis, proves these facts. In an interesting pamphlet, by Thos. J. Summer, of South Carolina, explanatory of an elaborate analysis, made by him, of the cotton plant and seed, in 1848, we find the following results: In the cotton plant, 100 parts of the ash contained of

Silicic acid.....	6.50 per cent.
Sand and coal.....	10.04
Oxide of iron.....	8.20
Oxide of lime.....	17.66
Oxide of magnesia.....	5.33
Sulphuric acid.....	1.31
Phosphoric acid.....	13.37
Potassa.....	22.01
Soda.....	0.99
Chloride of sodium.....	0.05
Carbonic acid.....	15.72

101.19

The ash of cotton seed contained	
Phosphoric acid.....	35.43 per cent.
Oxide of iron.....	3.43
Coal.....	1.05
Sulphuric acid.....	3.19
Oxide of lime.....	10.88
Oxide of magnesia.....	10.61
Potassa.....	27.82
Soda.....	2.75
Silicic acid.....	trace
Loss and chlorine.....	4.84

100.00

Professor Shepard's analysis of the cotton fibre, shows that every 10,000 lbs. of cotton wool produced by any tract of land, subtracts from the soil, of

by himself—he would hardly be at a loss. But as the subject is one of great importance just now, to the farmers of Louisiana, and as I am unwilling to leave undone any thing I can do to impress them with it, I will go a little into particulars. To say every thing that might be said, would make a volume; but I will try to be short. It is needless to tell the farmer to have his lots so arranged as not to have the richness of his manures dissolved by the rains and carried into the creeks. Having prepared the yard, he will haul in leaves, straw, wood-pile litter, mould from the fence corners, and from the banks of the branch, at the foot of the hills, and wherever else he can find it, so as to cover the yard several inches deep. Let him cover all with mould, rich earth, or if these are not convenient, any sort of earth, to keep the litter moist and hasten decay, and also to unite with and preserve the animal matters from flying off. On this yard let him pen all his cattle, having suitable houses and troughs for shelter and feeding them. Let him do this winter and summer. To do this profitably, he must have good pastures; with good pastures he can have good cattle, good milk and good manure heap—they mutually support each other, and with proper care improve almost indefinitely. They are not like the Kilkenny cats that Pat says ate each other up.

Two or three times in the course of the fall and winter, rake all this litter up and bulk it. Bulk it by first having a layer of this litter six inches thick, and then a layer from the stables two inches thick, and so on alternately, rounding the top when done, and covering with earth to turn off heavy rains and receive the ammonia that rises, so that it may not be wholly lost. If the stable manure gives out, you can use cotton seed in its place; or you can use 1, yard litter, 2, stable dung, 3, yard litter, 4, cotton seed, and so on in rotation. Into these heaps, while they are making, throw the ashes from the new ground and the hopper, the hair and blood from hogs after they are slaughtered, the scrapings from the hen roosts and the pigeon house, and cut up in small pieces and bury in them all the dead animals—in fine, throw into them every stinking thing that may accumulate about the kitchen and negro houses, polluting the air with stench and producing typhoid diseases.

Here again we see a beautiful arrangement of Providence. This filth and stench accumulating about our dwellings, causes disease and death—carried to our fields, they produce fertility and fatness.

FRANKLIN.

CHOLERA CURE.—The Memphis Appeal says it has the most reliable information that a gentleman in that vicinity, who had the treatment of between twenty and thirty cases of Cholera, was successful in every one of them, by using the prescription recommended by the captain of the *Silas Wright*, viz: a tablespoonful of salt and a teaspoonful of red pepper in half a pint of hot water.—*Am. Farmer*.

Useful Receipts.

To Cure Hams.

Cover the bottom of the cask with coarse salt, lay on the hams with the smooth or skin side down, sprinkle over fine salt, then another layer of hams, and so continue until the cask is full. This ought to be of the larger kind. A cask holding 64 gallons is small enough, and it would be better if it held 120 gallons. Make a brine in the following proportions: 6 gallons water, 9 pounds salt, 4 pounds brown sugar, 3 ounces saltpetre, 1 ounce sal-eratus. Scald and skin, and when cold pour the brine into the cask until the hams are completely covered. The hams should remain in this pickle at least three months, and a little longer time would do them no harm.

FLY IN SHEEP.—Make a strong decoction from the leaves of tobacco, or from chewing tobacco, and apply with a small squirt, or syringe, repeated several times during the fall months.

HIDE BOUND.—Bleed, and give a mash (at night) composed of one gallon of bran scalded with sassafras tea, one tablespoonful of flowers of sulphur, and one teaspoonful of saltpetre. No cold water to be given for six hours afterwards.

SORE TONGUE IN HORSES.—Take one part sugar of lead, one part sal ammoniac, and two parts burnt alum, the whole to be added to three quarts of good vinegar. With this wash out the mouth twice a day.

TO MAKE AND FINE COFFEE.—Put a sufficient quantity of coffee into the pot and pour boiling water on it, stir it and place it on the fire, bring it to a boil, and as soon as four or five bubbles have risen, take it off the fire and pour out a tea-cupful and return it; set it down for one minute, then pour gently over the top one tea-cupful of cold water, let it stand one minute longer, and it will be bright and fine. The cold water (by its greater density) sinks and carries the grounds with it.

TO DESTROY INSECTS, ON TREES, SHRUBS, &c.—Tie up some flowers of sulphur in a piece of gauze, and dust the plants with it.

TO KEEP INSECTS OFF FRUIT TREES.—Dip a piece of rag or convass in coal tar and tie it to the tree.

CURE FOR GLANDERS.—In answer to one of your subscribers, inquiring what will cure "Nasal Gleet," or discharge from the nose of horses, I would say, that I have cured many cases with the following simple compound, and two cases that were called glanders confirmed, viz.: Take one teaspoon of common rosin, one tablespoonful of copperas, two tablespoonfuls of salt, and four spoonfuls of dry ashes; pulverize the rosin and copperas, and mix the whole, and give it in bran or shorts, or oats, dry, and in four weeks' time, by giving the same quantity twice a week, I cured the two cases of

glanders. I have used the same in cases of cold or catarrh, and three or four doses have performed a cure. I have also used it for horse distemper with success.—*Dollar Newspaper* O. W.

PINE BOUGHS FOR SHEEP.—Give to your sheep pine boughs once or twice a week; they will create appetite, prevent disease, and increase their health.

REMEDY FOR THE STAGGERS.—Bleed freely. Then make a drench out of the following ingredients:—Sassafras tea, 3 half pints, plantain juice, half a pint; assafoetida, half an ounce; saltpetre one tea-spoonful. Mix, and drench thrice a week.

TO PREVENT MURRAIN IN CATTLE.—Take equal parts of salt and slaked lime; mix and give two table-spoonfulls twice a week during the prevalence of the disease.

TO CURE MURRAIN.—Take one pound of madder and give it as a drench. Give about one half, and wait a few minutes and then give the other half.

I have examined many cases of murrain and found the food in the manyfolds to be dry, generally an overflowing of the gall, and am persuaded that dry and bloody murrain are the same, and only operate differently at different seasons; say dry murrain in winter and bloody murrain in summer. I will here say that I tried many remedies until I found that it was in vain to try; at length it was said that madder would cure. I was called on to help drench a cow with the bloody murrain, and she got well. I have known of six cases, and five were cured. It is probable that if it was given in salt once a month it would prevent the occurrence of murrain.—*Prairie Farmer*. W. A.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

FARMER & PLANTER For 1851,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURE OF THE SOUTH,

AND ESPECIALLY ADAPTED TO ITS CLIMATE, PRODUCTIONS AND WANTS.

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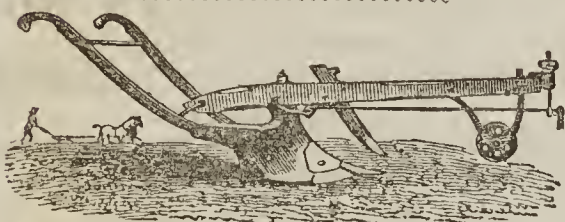
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SEABORN & GILMAN,
Editors and Proprietors.

Pendleton, S. C., Nov., 1850.

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January 1, 1851.

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HAMBURG, S. C. Aug. 26, 1850.—8-1.

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